## MONUMENTAL SLABS AND CROSSES.

Fig. 1.

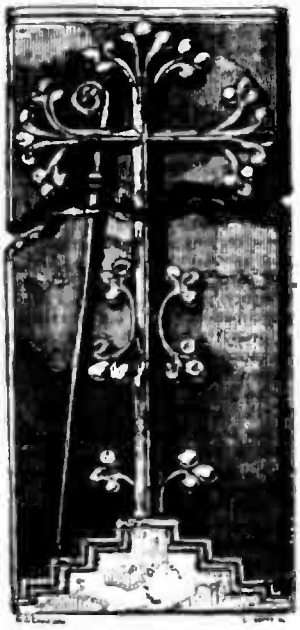

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

fantastically elaborate. The walls are in general surmounted by a mud plaster-work, and the tops and terraces of the habitations are surmounted with the same style of material, minutely described by Richardson in the curious account of his travels. These decorations are various and very irregular.

The cupboards cut in the walls are triangular or square. All the doors and beams are manufactured from the wood of the date-palms, and are usually of the same shape as ours, but the entrances are sometimes so low that the inmate is compelled to stoop to enter. This is inconvenient to the dwellers, who carry spears of great length in their hands, not merely as weapons, but also as we use walking-sticks. Locks and keys of most ingenious construction are employed here, as also in the houses of the towns on the coast of Barbary. The key is of wood, 6 or 8 inches long, by 2 inches broad, and covered at one end with small pegs. The lock is fitted to these with holes, and on the arrangement and fitting of these contrivances the security and secrecy of the locks depend: it requires a practised hand to open the door thus secured.

Instead of carpets or mats, the floors are covered with sand, clean or dirty, as the owner may be so.

Indeed, among the African races, there is almost every variety of domestic architecture. Some of the tribes dwell in habitations equal to those of the Malays; some inhabit hovels inferior to the lowest class of Indian savages; some, indeed, fall beneath the scale of the Irish bog-trotters, which is saying a great deal. In our next sketch we shall touch, in conclusion, on the races of South America, California, the Pacific isles, and Siberia. Confined within limits so narrow, our details must be imperfect; but if the reader feel an interest in the subject, there are ample sources from which he may derive information.

Fig. 4.

MONUMENTAL SLABS AND CROSSES.

We have already given some illustrations of monumental slabs and crosses, and are now enabled to present a few more from Mr. Cutts's Manual, published under the sanction of the Archæological Institute.* An amazing variety of pleasing designs were made from the simple cross, or from the cross and circle in combination.

Fig. 1 is from Elford, Staffordshire. As remarked by Mr. Cutts, we frequently find the "St. Andrew's Cross" thus united with the "Christ's Cross," but it is difficult to assign the reason. Date, 13th century.

Fig. 2, from Sulby Abbey, is an interesting stone to an abbot or abbess. The triple trefoils probably symbolize the Holy Trinity: it is not unusual to find flowers springing from the Calvary. Date, 13th century.

Fig. 3 is from Bredon, Worcestershire.

Fig. 4 is also from Bredon, and is a fine example of a class. We have also here an example of an ornamented coffin. 14th century.

* J. H. Parker, Oxford and London. Reviewed some time since.

MAKING FREE WITH GAS PIPES WITHOUT LEAVE.—At the Thames Police Court, the proprietor of the King's Arms Tavern, Mile-end-road, was charged last week with the serious offence of illegally connecting a pipe with the Commercial Gas Company's pipes, and using their gas without meter, on seventy-six occasions, thus subjecting himself to penalties amounting to nearly 160*l*. The charge of connecting the pipes was admitted, and the matter compromised by a check for 50*l*.

PREMIUMS IN APPRENTICESHIP.—The Lord Chancellor has just decided in a case where the master died and the offer of his executors to transfer an apprentice to a successor was refused, that as the premium was paid to the master for services to be rendered by him, when the anticipated condition failed by accident, or by the act of God, the party paying was entitled to have a fair proportion restored to him as an equitable debt.

## A REPLY TO MR. PUGIN.

If I ask for a short space in your columns to-day, to make a few remarks in reply to Mr. Pugin's letter in your last number, it is not with the smallest idea that I can convince him that he is wrong and I right; for even supposing I had every conceivable advantage over him, agreement is impossible while we are talking of two totally different things. Still the architectural question appears to me so interesting, that I would like another opportunity of trying to put it in a clearer light.

Throughout his letter Mr. Pugin, as a Roman Catholic, is speaking of Roman Catholic places of worship; I, as a Protestant, was speaking of those suited to the services of the community to which I belong. There is a difference between the forms of the two churches, and therefore the edifices that suit the one cannot suit the other. I, of course, express no opinion as to whether the Roman Catholics are right or wrong as to the edifices they may choose to erect for their own purposes. As Protestants, we solemnly abjured some centuries ago certain forms and ceremonies, which had been added to the primitive religious forms during the Middle Ages, and adopted a form of worship in which we have persevered to the present day. According to it the prayers are read in the vernacular, the congregation are expected to follow, and frequently repeat after the clergyman what he reads, and the sermon is an important and essential part of our service.

With the Catholics nothing of this is essential. It is not necessary they should hear the words of the minister, but only should see what is passing, and hear the bell and the

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